(b) the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The concerned authorities have investigated the matter and reported that no such incident has happened at IGI Airport, Delhi involving staff of Airport Health Organization during SARS screening.

Vasectomy operations

47. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of vasectomy operations undertaken in the country continue to decline every year;

(b) whether it is a fact that apprehensions over post operation effects would disuade men from adopting family planning operations; and

(c) how population is proposed to be checked in the circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The proportion of Vasectomy operations have gone down in last two decades to a low of 1.7% in 1997-98. This however, has increased to 2.4% in 2002-2003.

(b) No, Sir. The National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99 show that about two third of current non-users of contracêptives prefer female steritisation.

(c) The Government of India is implementing various promotional and motivational measures:

> An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception-Copper T 380 A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.
>
> Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2002, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.

Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight states, including family planning services.

No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) method (without a cut or a stitch) of male sterilization has been introduced to promote male participation in family planning programme since 1997.

Treatment of British heart and lung patients in India

48. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain's National Health Service wants to avail of Indian expertise in treatment of British heart and lung patients in India;

(b) whether N.H.S. officials are in India for negotiations with Indian officials to finalize arrangements for sending patients to India for heart surgery and lung ailment treatment; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be finalised and put into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CGHS facilities in H.P.

49. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Himachal Pradesh where CGHS facilities are available;

(b) the approved private hospitals in the State where the CGHS beneficiaries can get treatment free of cost;